(iv) Forward Markets Commission (FMC) has on 23.01.07, directed the three National Exchanges, namely (a) Multi Commodity Exchange of India Ltd., (b) National, Commodity & Derivatives Exchange Ltd., (c) National Multi Commodity Exchange of India Ltd., to delist all contracts of tur and urad and to close out all outstanding positions in all Tur and Urad contracts at the closing price on 23.01.07. FMC has also stated that no further contract shall be launched without its prior approval and permission already granted to launch contracts in Urad and Tur stands withdrawn.

(v) Keeping in view the prevailing price situation, the Central Government had issued a Central Order dated 29.8.2006 under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 to enable the State Governments to invoke Stock Limits in respect of wheat and pulses for a period of 6 months. By virtue of this Order, the State Governments/UT Administrations have been empowered to take effective action to bring out the hoarded stock of these items to ensure their availability to the common people at reasonable prices. Government has, on 1.9.2007, extended the validity of the Central Order by another six months.

Fair Price Shops in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh

†1997. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the per capita quantity of foodgrains being provided in Fair Price Shops in Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh;

(b) the rate at which rice, wheat, sugar and kerosene are being provided to card holders (BPL) in fair price shops; and

(c) the cities in Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh where fair price shops are located and the number of fair price shops of foodgrains being run by private persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMERAFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Rice or/and Wheat—As reported by State Governments, BPL (including AAY) Card holders are being provided 35 kg. foodgrains per family per month in Chhattisgarh. In Madhya Pradesh AAY ration card holders are being provided 35 kg. foodgrains per month per family and BPL ration card holders are being provided 20.250 kg. foodgrain per month.

(b) In Chhattisgarh AAY ration card holders are being provided Wheat @ Rs. 2 and Rice @ Rs. 3 per kg., and BPL card holders are being provided wheat @ 4.75 per kg. and Rice @ Rs. 6.75 per kg. Kerosene is being issued @ Rs. 8.94 to Rs. 9.96 per litre depending upon the distances from oil company depot. In Madhya Pradesh AAY ration card holders are being provided wheat @Rs. 2 and Rice @Rs. 3, and BPL ration card holders are being provided Wheat @Rs. 5.00 per kg. and Rice Rs. 6.50 per kg. Kerosene is being issued @Rs. 9.19 to Rs. 11.17 per litre in various districts depending upon distance for transportation.

The retail issue price of levy sugar under the PDS is Rs. 13.50 per kg. only to BPL families throughout the country since 01.03.2002.

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) There are 20476 Fair Price Shops (FPSs) in Madhya Pradesh, out of which 3903 are in urban areas. All FPSs in Madhya Pradesh are run by cooperatives and Panchayats.

In Chhattisgarh there are 10242 Fair Price Shops (FPSs) run by Gram Panchayats, Primary Agricultural and other Co-operative Societies, Self Help Groups of Women, etc.

No FPS in Madhya Pradesh or Chhattisgarh is being run by Private persons.

Import of wheat

1998. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the first tender to import wheat from foreign countries was invited in June/July, 2006 and if so, the details of rates quoted by each party;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government scrapped the said tender and if so, what were the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the same companies were given order at Rs. 16 per kilogram for 7.9 lakh tonnes of imported red wheat in August, 2007 and if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir in view of (a) & (b) above.

Target to procure foodgrain

1999. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated target to procure foodgrain for the Central pool in the ongoing paddy season;

(b) the steps taken by Government to meet the target; and

(c) how much paddy Government has procured, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Since procurement of foodgrains under Minimum Support Price (MSP) operations carried out by Government agencies is open-ended, no targets are fixed. However, based on estimates given by St. ; Food Secretaries, the procurement of rice in Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2007-08 v. estimated at 276 lakh tonnes.

(b) The steps taken by Government to maximize procurement are given in the Statement *(See* below).

(c) The actual procurement of rice by Government agencies for the Central Pool in KMS 2007-08 is 93.45 lakh tonnes as on 3.12.07.